

Teacher Ideas and Student Questions

1. Expository writing examples include: reports, biographies, news articles. Brainstorm any assignment that may have already been expository.
2. Read a short expository writing example. Tell the students you've just read an expository example to them. Have students brainstorm what they think expository writing is or what the features of expository writing are. Read 2nd and 3rd selections if needed.
3. Brainstorm all the places you can find factual information. Factual information that is organized is often expository writing.
4. Brainstorm all the non-fiction type of writing you can think of.
5. Use a word that most students know something about and brainstorm the categories for that word and supporting sentences. For instance: Weather— types of weather, impact of weather, dress for weather, what you do in different weather.
6. Compare / contrast expository writing with narrative or with persuasive. Draw a Venn to discuss similarities and differences.
7. Brainstorm a list of topics that could become expository articles. (*Clouds, animals, habitat, movies, diseases, important people...*)
8. Watch an appropriate You Tube video and create an expository article based on it.
9. Have students to work with partners to brainstorm ideas for topics, then flush out the ideas with at least 3 sub topics. For instance, my dad has the most important job in the world (what he does, why it's important, what would happen if that job wasn't done.) Healthy eating (what is healthy eating, why is it important, what is the impact of not eating healthy).
10. Have students work with a partner to develop opening, punchy introductory sentences that grabs the reader on various topics.
11. Cluster ideas around a topic and then practice grouping them. For instance, brainstorm everything about a sibling or a pet. Then cluster them in to categories—funny things they do, funny things they say, how they can be irritating, what they like to do etc.
12. At the end of the unit, have students write a letter to you telling you what they learned about expository writing.